9-10 a.m. * 1352 Q.—Sri K. UPPI (on behalf of Sri K. M. Seethi Sahib): Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government's attention has been drawn to the prevalence of smallpox in Badagara, Vanmugam and other places in Kurumbranad taluk; and

(b) what steps have been taken by Government to provide medical relief to those affected to prevent the spread of the disease and to supply food to the poor families affected by the disease?"

The Hon. Sri A. B. SHETTY :—" (a) Yes, Sir.

" (b) Medicines were supplied by the District Health Officer, North Malabar, for the free treatment of all indigent and destitute cases. An intensive vaccination campaign was carried out in the area. Action was taken to distribute skim milk powder, clothes and rice among the poor people affected."

Sri K. UPPI :—" Smallpox is prevalent not only in the Badagara town but it is also spreading outside the town and surrounding villages. Therefore, will the Government be pleased to take immediate action to stop the further spread of smallpox in the Kurumbranad taluk?"

The Hon. Sri A. B. SHETTY :—" Yes, Sir, the public health staff are very alert and whenever measures are to be taken for controlling it, they do take action in the matter."

Sri M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" In the previous similar question also, the Hon. Minister said that he had no information to the question whether isolation wards were put up. The Madras Public Health Act enjoins on the Government to ask the concerned local body to construct such wards. May I know why the Government have failed to do it in this case?"

The Hon. Sri A. B. SHETTY :—" I do not admit that the Government have failed to do it. I only said that I had no information about that particular matter."

Piggery in the State.

* 1353 Q.—Sri M. JAGANNATHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(a) whether there is any piggery maintained by the Government in the State;

(b) whether any subsidy has been paid by the Government to one Mrs. M. M. Buck of Pudupakkam village in Chingleput taluk for rearing Berkshire pigs; and

(c) if so, the total amount of subsidy paid to her during 1953–54?

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (a) No piggery is being maintained by the Government.

" (b) The answer is in the negative.

" (c) Does not arise."